

\* I recognize that changes may be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

We claim:

5      1. A hand and forearm protector comprising:  
a sleeve for overlying a forearm and a proximal hand  
portion of a wearer;  
a primary opening at one end of the sleeve;  
10     a discrete digit opening disposed at another end of the  
sleeve wherein the wearer's fingers extend therethrough,  
wherein the sleeve extends to a point adjacent a first set of  
joints of the wearer's fingers, leaving the joints exposed

The sleeve extends past the set of joints of the metacarpals and the phalanges to a point adjacent a first set of joints of the phalanges which are adjacent to the set of joints of the metacarpals and the phalanges of the wearer's fingers leaving the joints of the phalanges exposed.

20 a discrete thumb opening disposed at another end of the sleeve wherein the sleeve extends beyond the joint of the phalanges and first metacarpal and is adjacent to the joint of the phalanges leaving the joint exposed; longitudinal opening along the sleeve extending adjacent from a point that overlies a juncture of the carpal bones and the radius and extending rearwardly towards the primary opening to proximately the end of the sleeve; and

25 a zipper for closing the longitudinal opening to conform the sleeve to the forearm of the wearer, the closure being disposed to overlie a forward side of the forearm.

2. The protector of claim 1 and further including a protective flap that extends between edges of the opening protecting the wearer from being pinched by the zipper.

30 3. The protector of claim 1 wherein the sleeve extends to approximately 1 to 1½ inches from an elbow of the wearer.

3. The protector of claim 1 wherein the sleeve includes decorative indicia on an uninterrupted surface.

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5. The protector of claim 1 wherein the sleeve extends to a first joint of the thumb, leaving the joint exposed.
6. The protector of claim 1 wherein the sleeve extends to a point adjacent a first knuckle of the fingers and thumb, leaving the knuckles exposed.